EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

VISUAL ARTS

School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Visual Art Art History

FA / VISA 1999 6.0 SECTION A
CONCEPT, CREATIVITY AND PRODUCTION
FALL 2018 / WINTER 2019

Last Modified Date: 08/07/2018

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduces students to a wide variety of creative and theoretical approaches involved in making art within ecologies that mix humans and machines, and a spectrum of production methods addressing two dimensional, three dimensional and the element of time in art making in the context of technology. Classes consist in a blend of presentations on diverse art-technology histories, introductions to faculty and studios, experiential exercises centered on specific applications and digital environments, cursory portraits of digital practices through specific artists, and critiques of major projects that combine theoretical and pragmatic approaches. This forms a starting point for research, conceptualization and exploration of fundamental processes as a means of visualizing students’ creative ideas. Students acquire experience with a range of methods and techniques for creating work including creative coding tools and media production. Course work is presented at an end of term exhibition. Pre-requisites: None

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couroux, Marc G</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:couroux@yorku.ca">couroux@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

This foundational course of the Intermedia program introduces students to a wide variety of creative and theoretical approaches involved in making art within ecologies that mix humans and machines, and a spectrum of production methods addressing image, video, sound and textual practices within expanded concepts of time and networked collaboration. Classes consist in a blend of presentations on diverse art-technology trajectories, experiential in-class exercises centered on specific applications and digital environments, and critiques of major projects that combine theoretical and pragmatic approaches. Topics covered include: big data, surveillance and dataveillance, the internet of things, new modes of digital sociality and political potentials, hacking and hacktivism, algorithmic infrastructures of the everyday, embodiment and immateriality, machine vision and audition, cybernetics, feedback, and information theory, artificial intelligence and a-life,
bio art, generative and autopoietic practices, networked collaboration and the noosphere, digital virality and memes, virtual reality and its modulation of the “offline” world, analog vs. digital approaches and the ethics of digitality. Students will acquire experience with a range of methods and techniques for creating work including creative coding and media production tools. Course work will be presented at an end-of-term exhibition.

Tuesday classes will be centred on theoretical explorations and in-class image, sound and video exercises (accompanied with the relevant tutorials). Thursday classes will adapt these materials to coding environments. In addition, readings, and viewing and listening excerpts will be occasionally assigned. These materials will be fully accessible online.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Projects and In-Class Exercises
Major projects will include experiments in algorithmic textual generation, computational image tracking and telematic sonic collaborative performance. In-class exercises will include camera disorientation experiments, stream-of-consciousness analysis, sonic cut-ups, collaborative textimage assemblage, meme design, etc.

Both projects and exercises will involve the use of image (Adobe Photoshop), video (Adobe Premiere) and sound editing software (Adobe Audition) as well as coding environments including MAX/MSP/Jitter and Processing. In addition to this, students will be periodically required to present their work-in-progress for class discussion.

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

1. Purpose
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2. Specific objectives

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:
- consider human-machine assemblages in a wide variety of contexts/systems (political, cultural, scientific, social), at the intersection of / parallel to a plethora of art disciplines (sonic, visual, haptic, spatial, kinetic);
- create works with digital technologies, enacted in manners which situate and re-situate the viewer and foster the development of self-reflexive criticality;
- exploit potentials inherent in coding environments (MAX & Processing) and editing software features (image, video and sound);
- conceptualize protocols for collaborative, networked-based work;
- develop critical skills within a critique-based format which will enable him/her to assess the work of his/her peers and offer suggestions as to alternate / future creative or technical ramifications;
- engage in a critical discussion of ideas with his/her peers;
- learn how to effectively research solutions to technical problems while engaging with online communities.

GRADED ASSESSMENT

Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

Project #1: 25% (Algorithmic text generation)
Project #2: 25% (Computational image tracking)
Project #3: 25% (Telematic sound collaboration)
In-class exercises: 15% (the best three exercises will be retained, 5% each)
Participation + presence: 10%

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade. See the policy for exceptions to this aspect of the policy:


Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

The last day to drop this course without receiving a grade November 9, 2018

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests
Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A= 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar:

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the Faculty of Fine Arts section of the Undergraduate Calendar:

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized (one half-letter grade for each additional day after the due date). Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Academic Honesty and Integrity
York students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty (http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=69).

There is also an academic integrity website with complete information about academic honesty. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website (http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity).

Access/Disability
York provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University.

Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice.

You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

Additional information is available through Counselling & Disability Services at www.yorku.ca/cds or from disability service providers:

• Personal Counselling and Learning Skills Services: N110 BCSS, 416-736-5297
• Mental Health Disability Services: N110 BCSS, 416-736-5297
• Learning Disability Services: W128 BCSS, 416-736-5383
• Physical, Sensory and Medical Disability Services: N108 Ross, 416-736-5140, TTY: 416-736-5263
Deaf, deafened and hard-of-hearing students may also contact dhh@yorku.ca

Glendon students - Counselling & Disability Services, Glendon Site: Glendon Hall E103, 416-487-6709

Ethics Review Process
York students are subject to the York University Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.

Religious Observance Accommodation
York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf (PDF)

Student Conduct
Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=82

Please note that this information is subject to periodic update. For the most current information, please go to the ASCP webpage (see Student Information Sheet under Reports, Initiatives, and Documents) http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/senate_cte_main_pages/ASCP.htm

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Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University